

Message Text

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41

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCCT-01 SCS-03 SCA-01 SY-05 IO-10

SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 /078 W

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O 261115Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8765

AMEMBASSY NIAROBI NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KIGALI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAR ES SALAAM 2276

KIGALI PASS ASST SECTY DAVIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, CASC (SMUTS, BARBARA)(SMITH, KENNETH STEPHEN)

(HUNTER, CARRIE JANE)

SUBJ: KIDNAPPED AMERICANS: AP AND UPI PRESS REPORTS

REF: A) COOTE/POPE/CARTER TELCON 25 JUNE B) STATE 149433

C) STATE 149731

1. I HELD LENGTH MEETING THIS A.M., 26 JUNE, WITH ALL AMERICAN OFFICERS IN THIS MISSION REGARDING ABOVE SUBJECT IN EFFORT DETERMINE HOW THIS INFORMATION OBTAINED.

2. CONSENSUS OF MEETING IS THAT LOCAL WIRE SERVICE REPS ACUTELY SENSITIVE TO IMPACT OF THIS STORY WHICH ONE OF BIGGEST TO DEVELOP HERE IN SOME TIME, AND THAT THESE WIRE SERVICE MEN HAVE USEFUL CONTACTS IN MAJOR URBAN AREAS OF TANZANIA INCLUDING, OF COURSE, CONFIDENTIAL

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KIGOMA.

3. HAL LUCIUS, WHO HAS TWICE SERVED PB KIGOMA DURING THIS CRISIS, IS AWARE OF AT LEAST ONE STRINGER WHO WAS ACTIVE IN THE AREA AT THE TIME OF BARBARA SMUTS' RELEASE. WHILE IT DIFFICULT TO IMPOSSIBLE TO GET PHONE CALLS INTO KIGOMA, PHONE SERVICE OUT OF THE LAKE CITY SEEMS TO BE POSSIBLE. TELEX COMMUNICATIONS ARE, OF COURSE, STILL OPEN BETWEEN DAR AND KIGOMA, AND THE ONCE WEEKLY FLIGHT BETWEEN DAR-KIGOMA-DAR OCCURRED YESTERDAY, WEDNESDAY, 25 JUNE.

4. THIS IS NOT TO SAY THAT THE STORY COULDN'T HAVE BROKEN IN DAR, BUT THE ONLY EYE-WITNESS TO THE EVENTS OF TUESDAY MORNING IS DEREK BRYCESON WHO RETURNED TO DAR TUESDAY NIGHT. BRYCESON TELLS ME HE HAS STEADFASTLY REFUSED TO COMMENT, AND FRANKLY I AM UNCLEAR IN MY OWN MIND AS TO WHETHER HE WAS THE SOURCE OR NOT. ON THE BASIS OF PAST PERFORMANCE IT IS ENTIRELY POSSIBLE, BUT HE IS EXTREMELY SENSITIVE TO THE DELICATE STATE OF PLAY AND IS ANXIOUS FOR STUDENTS TO BE RETURNED BECAUSE OF GOMBE AND NATIONAL PARKS INVOLVEMENT. I, THEREFORE, TEND TO BELIEVE THAT HE MAY NOT HAVE BEEN CULPRIT.

5. MEANWHILE, MY USIS STAFF TELLS ME THAT TONY AVIRGAN, THE AP MAN HERE, TOLD THEM TODAY THAT HE CAREFULLY USED THE PHRASE IN PARA THREE, REF B: "U.S. OFFICIALS COUEIRMED....". AVIRGAN SAYS THAT IF HE WISHED TO IDENTIFY OFFICIALS IN US EMBASSY DAR HE WOULD HAVE SO STATED, AND THAT HE EMPLOYED THE PHRASE USED TO STATE WHAT HE WISHED TO SAY.

6. WE HAVE ALSO LEARNED TODAY THAT A CBS TWO-MAN TEAM CHARTERED AN AIRCRAFT FROM TANZANAI, A LOCAL OUTFIT, SAYING THEY WERE US EMBASSY OFFICIALS WISHING TO TRAVEL TO KIGOMA. UPON LEARNING THIS WE CONTACTED THE GENERAL MANAGER OF TANZANAI WHO CLAIMS HE WAS NOT AWARE OF THIS AND WOULD CHECK IT OUT IMMEDIATELY. IT TURNS OUT THAT THE PLANE DID NOT HAVE PROPER CWHAYRANCES AND TANGOV DEFENSE PEOPLE HAVE ORDERED IT PUT INTO TABORA AND REMAIN THERE FOR 24 HOURS UNTIL CLEARANCES COULD BE DETERMINED. AT THE SAME TIME WE WERE ABLE TO PASS THIS ON TO KIGOMA, AND MACFARLANE GOT WITH THE LOCAL POLICE COMMISSINER WHO AGREED THERE IS NO NEED FOR MORE VISITORS IN THE AREA AT THIS TIME. THE POLICE COMMISSIONER LATER DENIED PLANE LANDING RIGHOE UN KIGOMA AND
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ADVISED PILOT TO RETURN TO DAR WITH HIS PASSENGERS.

7. FOR NAIROBI: RECOGNIZE IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR YOU TO KNOW OF TRAVEL INTENTIONS OF NAIROBI BASED CORRESPONDENTS, BUT URGE THAT IF SUCH INFORMATION COMES TO YOUR ATTENTION YOU USE EVERY INFLUENCE IN EFFORT TO ABORT KIGOMA TRAVEL. ASSUME POLICE COMMISSIONER WILL CAREFULLY SCRUTINIZE ANY REQUESTS FOR KIGOMA LANDING CLEARANCES BY ALL CHARTER SERVICES AT THIS TIME.

8. COMMENT: WITH STANDDOWN BY FAZ UNITS AND CURRENT LEVEL OF TAN-
GOV COOPERATION, LAST THING WE NEED IS BEVY OF NEWSTYPES MUDDYING
WATERS OF LAKE TANGANYIKA.
CARTER

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